

CD 5 pages in Burkley file, :8-10; 150-1

When I first saw CE392 in 1964 I knew something was wrong with the first page. It is also wrong that the original was not used. I now have the original but it is not at this early-morning moment convenient to make a comparison. However, the CE392 as-printed version can be compared with the FBI's "verbatim" recopying (CD5:8).

The first page is missing in the "verbatim" FBI copy.

The opening of CD5:8 states that on November 25, C.J. Price advised the death certificate and statement of medical treatment had been taken with them by Burkley and SS agents and that the summary had been prepared by Kemp Clark and "transmitted" by letter dated 11/23. The FBI left out the covering letter.

Burkley is not important enough to be a KP. This and the other marked papers in the file are stamped Other Ind & Org., etc.

In rereading the two Harper pages, which I have not examined with care since discovering them in the spring of 1966, I find several things of possible interest.

One is why it took two days, at least, assuming that with the late hour of the finding of the bone nothing was done 11/23 even though Harper took it to his uncle "immediately". The FBI report is of an 11/23 interview. I doubt the Harpers waited from 11/24 to 11/26 to tell the FBI, although it is possible.

Anderton give the spot the Pres was shot on his own authority, so are we entitled to assume he by then knew? They did have and had studied Zap. However, this location differs from that the the younger Harper, who now seems to place it farther west, near the manhole of the sewer on the south side of ELM. With all the activity there within 10 minutes, I am not predisposed not to believe Anderton's locationing.

CD5:151 makes reference to what is missing here (and I've not seen it anywhere), the "FBI laboratory letter". Now the report doesn't say, but I believe it is a safe assumption that this letter was addressed to Burkley and should be in his files, as it should have been in this one. I will ask the Archives for it.

* * * *

If these are all the pages referring to or originating with Burkley, then there was remarkably little. But we know they are not, for conspicuously the receipt he got, in CD371, is not included. With its content, can that also be an accident? I have asked Rhoads if this is the complete file, knowing it is incomplete. He has not responded. I asked for the complete file.

Another thing difficult to believe is that there is here no indication either the FBI or the Secret Service asked Burkley the questions that, obviously, should have been asked of the President's physician and of a medical man not of the hospital staff who was present in the emergency room. Also, one would expect to find his account of what early shaped up as a hairy subject, the kidnapping of the cadaver. This was an open affront to Texas law, an open illegality, and the SS, at least, had to expect some possible consequences. But, neither report nor memo.

While it can be believed that there was simple mechanical error in omitting essential evidence from this file, it should not have happened and it should not be assumed. There is also this fact: these things appear in no other file I have seen.